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49. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the first display widget is associated with a first application and the second display widget is associated with a second application different from the first application.

REMARKS

The office action of December 24, 2002 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 and 21-47 remain pending. Claims 17, 20, 22-25, 31, 32, 38 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 48 and 49 have been added.

Apparently through oversight, the Examiner failed to initial the reference "Computer Music Journal" on one of the PTO Form 1449 returned with the instant office action. Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on February 5, 2003 to cite art from a related application and have also included this reference on the PTO Form 1449 for the Examiner's convenience. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to make this article of record.

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 1-4 and 40-47 have been allowed and claims 6-15, 17, and 21-39 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 21, 26-28, 30 and 33-37 have been rewritten in independent form to include many of the features of their respective base claim. Hence, it is believed that claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 21, 26-28, 30 and 33-37 are patentably distinct over the art of record. Claims 8, 11, 13, 15 and 29 which depend from one of these claims are in condition for allowance for the same reasons as their respective base claim and further in view of the additional advantageous features recited therein.

Claims 5, 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,635,958 to Murai et al. ("Murai"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the features of objected to claim 17, which was identified as containing allowable subject matter.

As amended claim 5 calls for, among other features, detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a first predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; in a first context, displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to the step of detecting, the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the first context; and in a second context different from the first context, displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to the step of detecting, the second display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the second context. Murai is wholly devoid of any teaching or suggestion of first and second contexts. Necessarily, Murai neither teaches nor suggests in a first context, displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to the step of detecting, *the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the first context*, and in a second context different from the first context, displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to the step of detecting, *the second display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the second context*. Hence, claim 5 is patentably distinct from Murai. Also, claims 15, 18 and 19 depend from claim 5 and are allowable over Murai for the same reasons as claim 5, and further in view of the additional novel features recited therein.

New claims 48 and 49 are fully supported by the specification and are considered allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as claim 5, and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer to foreclose the potential of a provisional double patenting rejection over commonly assigned, copending application serial no. 09/804,383. By filing the Terminal Disclaimer, applicants are not acquiescing or admitting that any claims of the instant application are obvious in view of claims pending in application serial no. 09/804,383.

CONCLUSION

A Fee Transmittal is included for the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d). It is believed that no additional fees are required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an

overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

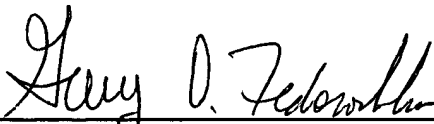
All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

5. (Amended) In a computer system having an auxiliary control switch and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control switch for a first predefined period in which the auxiliary control switch maintains a current switch state; and

in a first context, displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control switch in the first context; and

in a second context different from the first context, displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said detecting, the second display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the second context.

6. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 5, wherein the~~ In a computer system having a control switch which is one of a rocker switch or dial switch and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to the control switch for a predefined period in which the control switch maintains a current switch state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the control switch.

7. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 5, wherein~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information identifies identifying at least one of track name, track time remaining, track length, album title and album length in a multimedia application.-

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9. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 5, wherein~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information relatinges to a game.

10. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of~~ In a computer system having a first auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the first auxiliary control; and

changing the status information in the display widget responsive to an second inputauxiliary control other than the first auxiliary control-switch.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the first inputauxiliary control is a headset or a microphone.

12. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 5, wherein~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information identifiesing currently running applications.

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13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of placing an identified application in the foreground of the display screen, responsive to a user's selection of the application using the auxiliary control switch.

14. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 5, wherein~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information including~~es~~ a task bar.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control switch for a second predefined period while displaying the display widget; and

discontinuing display of the display widget, responsive to detecting the absence of the physical presence.

16. (Amended) ~~In a computer system having an input device including an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:~~

~~detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a first predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current control state; and~~

~~displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the auxiliary control is one of a joystick or a wheel.~~

18. (Amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~5, wherein the auxiliary control is one of a button or a key.

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19. (Amended) The method according to claim ~~5~~16, wherein the physical presence is a hand of a user.

21. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:~~In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a first predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current control state;

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control;

detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a second predefined period while displaying the display widget;

determining if a pointer is located within the display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting; and

discontinuing display of the display widget when the pointer is not located within the display widget.

26. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16, wherein~~In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information identified only applying~~ies~~ to a single active application.

27. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

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displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the type of status information associated with the auxiliary control displayed when a first application is active is different from the type of status information associated with the auxiliary control displayed when a second application is active.

28. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information is messaging related information.

30. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein when a web browser is an active application, the status information includes at least one of the most recently used searches, at least one of the most recently obtained search results, identification of previous and next web pages which may be visited, list of favorite web pages, and current page loading information.

33. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

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displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information provides printer status information.

34. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information identifies contents of a clipboard.

35. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information identifies at least one of time, date, location, file type and size of most recently saved file.

36. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the auxiliary control is a key representing a mathematical operator, and in a spreadsheet application,

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the status information ~~identifies~~^{ying} the result if the mathematical operator is applied to data in a spreadsheet.

37. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the auxiliary control is configured to control scrolling of the display screen, the status information identifying settings for the wheel.

40. (Amended) In a computer system having an input device and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the input device for a first predefined period in which the ~~control~~-input device maintains a current control state; and

causing information displayed on the display screen to disappear responsive to said step of detecting.